Inadequate connectivity in border areas in Gujarat

1018. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is inadequate connectivity at Veghokot, Koteshwar and nearby areas near the Pakistan border in Gujarat; and

(b) the action Government proposes to take to provide the enhanced telecom connectivity there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) All the telecom service providers do not have adequate coverage at Veghokot, Koteshwar and nearby areas near the Pakistan border in Gujarat.

(b) The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.

Reduction in mail traffic

1019. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mail traffic registered a decline of nearly fifty per cent during last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by Department of Post (DoP) to improve its operational efficiency and to modernize its operation to render better services to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. There has been a decline of 26.58% in total mail traffic in the year 2006-07 in comparison to 2002-03.

(b) This decline has been caused by the changing nature of mail mix and market, effect of new technologies like mobile telephones, tax and e-mail and unregulated increase in competition.

(c) The Department has adopted a multi pronged strategy to improve operational efficiency and modernize its services. For the business segment, the Department is providing services like Speed Post for time sensitive mail, Business Post to provide complete mailing solutions, Express Parcel Post to cater to e-commerce and other bulk senders of parcels, Direct Post for direct mailing, Bill Mail Service for transaction based mails, ePost for web transmission of messages to be printed and delivered as letters, iMO for instant domestic money transfer etc.